

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A needle guiding apparatus comprising:  
a base defining an opening therethrough;  
a guide platform disposed adjacent to the opening, the guide platform being rotatable about a rotation axis, the rotation axis extending through the opening and having a common point along the rotation axis;  
a pivot disposed above the base at least partially within the guide platform and being rotatable about a pivot axis that is substantially perpendicular to the rotation axis; and  
a guide shaft disposed at least partially within the pivot and extending along a longitudinal axis from a first end of the guide shaft to a second end of the guide shaft, the longitudinal axis intersecting with the rotation axis at the common point, the guide shaft comprising a radiopaque material between the first end and a locus along the guide shaft normal to the longitudinal axis at the common point, the radiopaque material extending to the locus, the locus located immediately adjacent to a material being less radiopaque than the radiopaque material.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the common point is located at the second end.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pivot axis intersects the rotation axis at the common point.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the guide shaft comprises an inner wall of the pivot forming a bore.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the guide shaft is disposed at least partially within an inner wall in the pivot forming a bore.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the entire guide shaft between the first end and the locus comprises the radiopaque material.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the guide shaft is rotatable about the rotation axis and the pivot axis.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a guide rod that is connected to the pivot and that is rotatable about the rotation axis and the pivot axis to transfer rotational movement to the guide shaft.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a guide rod lock for preventing movement of the pivot.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a grid disposed about the rotation axis.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a shaft connected to the base, the shaft extending along a shaft axis perpendicular to the rotation axis.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising an outer rim disposed about the base, the outer rim being rotatable around the shaft axis.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising an outer rim lock for preventing relative movement between the outer rim and the base.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a radiopaque point disposed proximate the guide platform.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a radiopaque line segment disposed proximate the guide platform.

Claims 16-19 (Withdrawn).